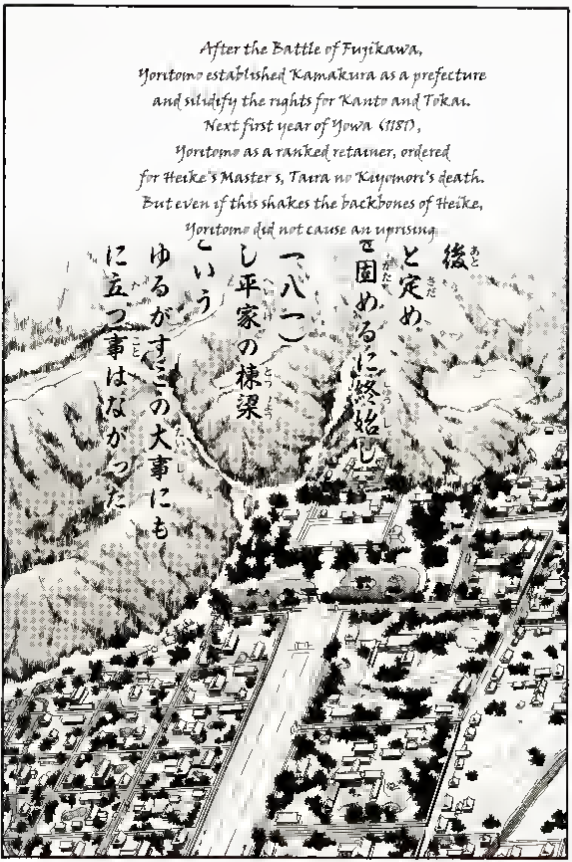
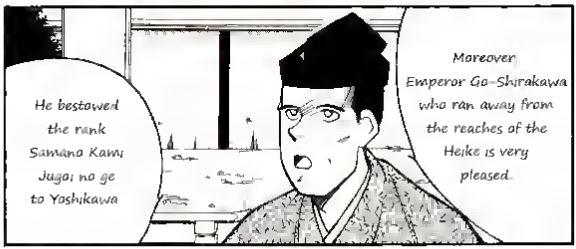
FIRST BATTLE

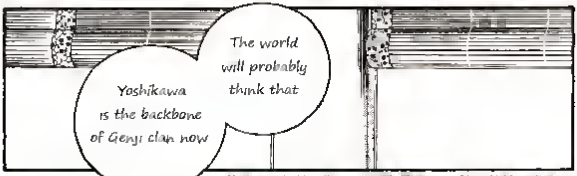

After the Battle of Fujikawa,
Yoritomo established Kamakura as a prefecture
and solidify the rights for Kanto and Tokai.
Next first year of Yowa (1181),
Yoritomo as a ranked retainer, ordered
for Heike's Master s, Taira no Kiyomori's death.
But even of this shakes the backbones of Heike,
Yoritomo did not cause an uprising.
後と定め
を固めるに終始し
一一八一
し平家の棟梁
という
ゆるがすこの大事にも
に立つ事はなかった

But in second year of Juei (1183),
in exchange,
Yoshinaka, who had conquered from Kiso to Hokuriku,
crushed Heike's forces at Kurikara Pass, Etchu Province.
Influenced by that victory, he proceeded to the capital.

When the news reached Kamakura,
Yoritomo cannot hide his dismay
So Yoshikawa has entered the capital?
Yes! The Heike clan took Yotei and the Imperial Regalia without fighting to the west
Ugh...

*Yotei: Emperor Antoku, son of Taira no Tokuko, second daughter of Taira no Kiyomori.
*Imperial Regalia: consist of the sword Kusanagi, the mirror Yata no Kagami, and the jewel Yasakani no Magatama, used for the entheonement ceremony.



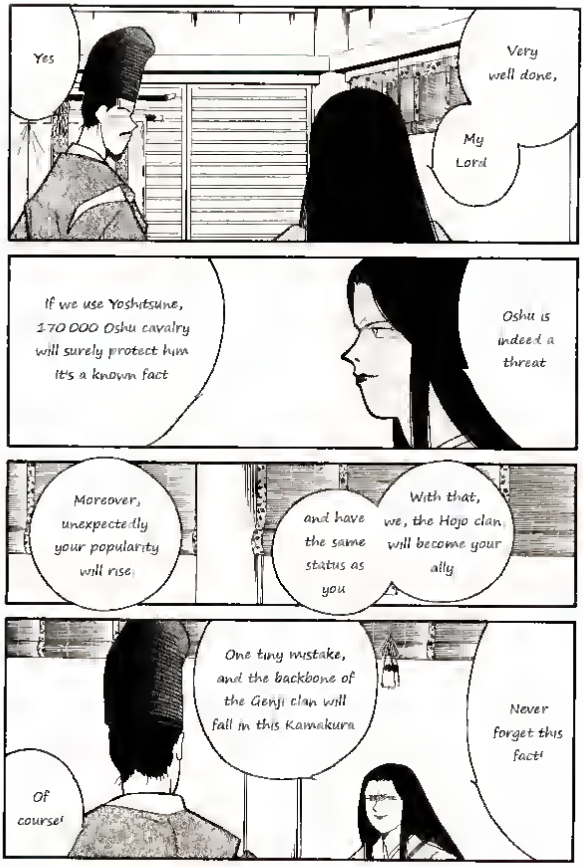


去皇……仏門に入った上皇(譲位した後の天皇の称号)。
法皇・上皇とも、院政を行うのが普通。

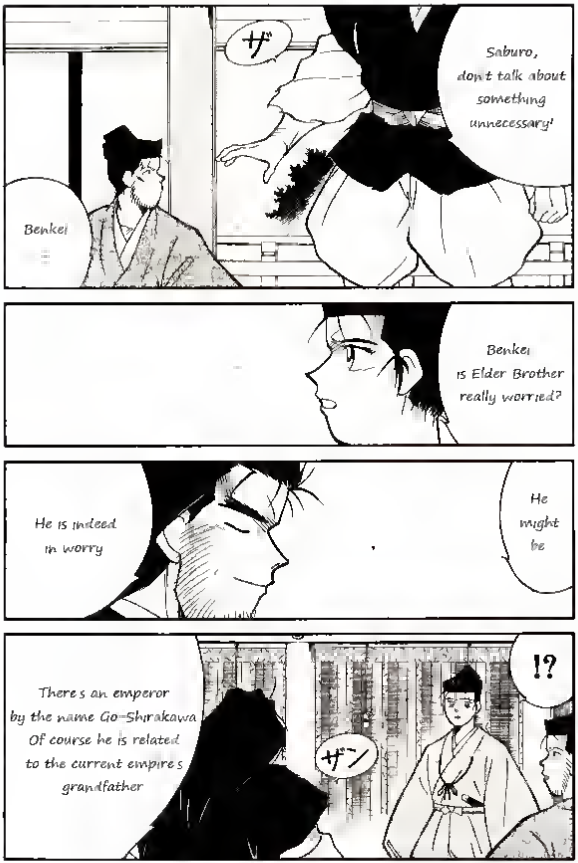
北条政子　頼朝の妻。
頼朝の後楯・北条時政の長女(1157年生まれ)。のちに尼将軍と呼ばれる。

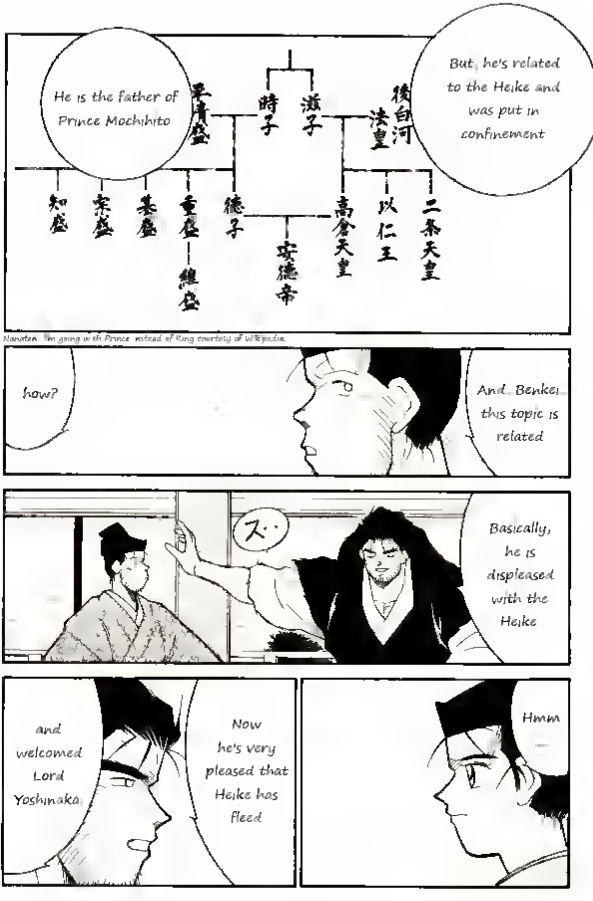
Not with Oshu's threat behind me I can only observe...
But I can't
If it's Oshu, didn't Lord Kurou has the connection with them? If you're worried about their threat, why don't you send Lord Kurou?
Forgive me, My Lord!
with them
I we can make and alliance
Whose vassal are you?
Lord Kurou has received Hidehira's hospitality With that character
Ah, no but,

Then when I said I can't, you better keep your silence!
Umm, yours... My Lord
If I do that it would make me his vessel It's improper!
Moreover, Kurou is my younger brother!
Y... Yes!
We're done here!


Yes
Very well done, My Lord
If we use Yoshitsune, 170 000 Oshu cavalry will surely protect him it's a known fact
Oshu is indeed a threat
Moreover, unexpectedly your popularity will rise!
and have the same status as you
With that, we, the Hojo clan, will become your ally
One tiny mistake, and the backbone of the Genji clan will fall in this Kamakura
Never forget this fact!
Of course!

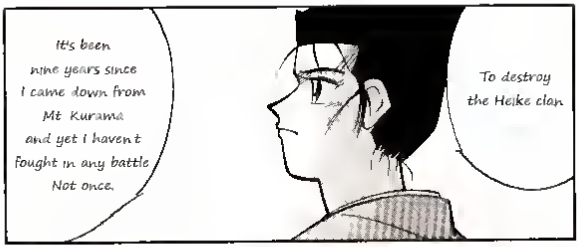
Elder Brother is worried?
About what?
Much less his cousin. So why is he worried if he entered the capital?
Lord Kiso is also a Genji.
No, that's not the case, My Lord
I mean to join forces in defeating Heike
But as the son of Lord Yoshitaka can't he come to Kamakura?
They might be at odds one time
The world is not that simple


ザ
Saburo, don't talk about something unnecessary!
Benkei
Benkei is Elder Brother really worried?
He is indeed in worry
He might be
There's an emperor by the name Go-Shirakawa. Of course he is related to the current empire's grandfather
ザン
!?


But, he's related to the Heike and was put in confinement
He is the father of Prince Mochihito
後白河法皇
滋子
時子
平清盛
知盛
宗盛
基盛
重盛
維盛
徳子
安徳帝
高倉天皇
以仁王
二条天皇
Nanaten: I'm going with Prince instead of King (courtesy of Wikipedia.
how?
And... Benkei... this topic is related
Basically, he is displeased with the Heike
Now he's very pleased that Heike has fled
and welcomed Lord Yoshinaka.
Hmm

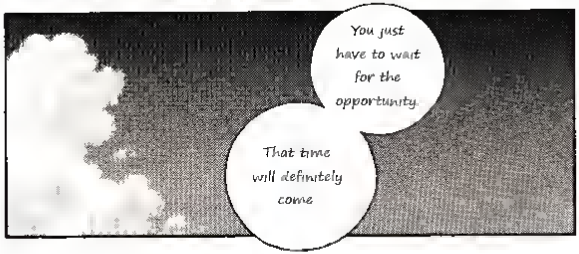
Samano Kami Jugoi no Ge...
For that accomplishment, he bestowed a rank to Lord Yoshinaka
That's ...
If it's just Jugoi no Ge, then it's the same rank as Lord Yoritomo
Correct
Lord Yoshitoma's official rank
But Samano Kami is Genji's Leader's,
Elder Brother to become upset
Of course this would make

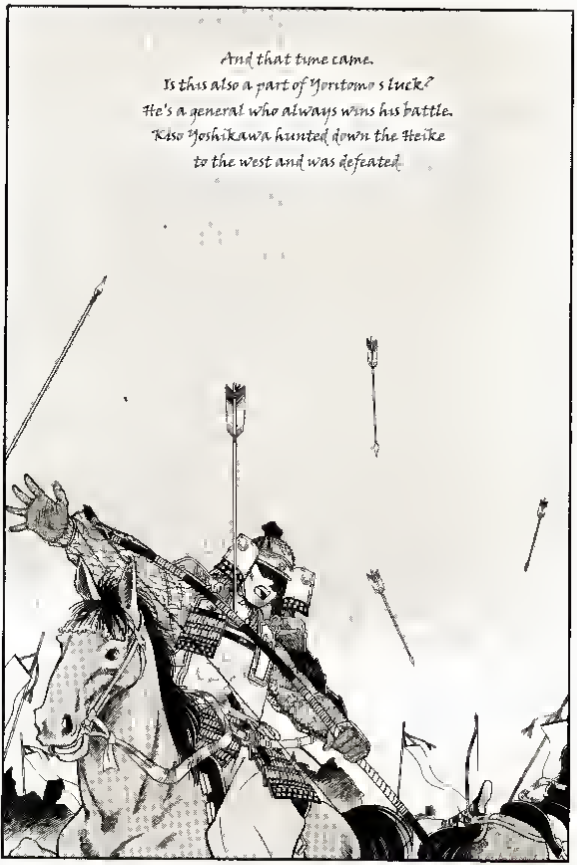
ザ
Isn't that fine, Saburo?
Benkei
So,
what should I do?
My Lord
Truth is... I'm jealous of Lord Kiso
Of course not to his rank, but to him able to chase Heike away

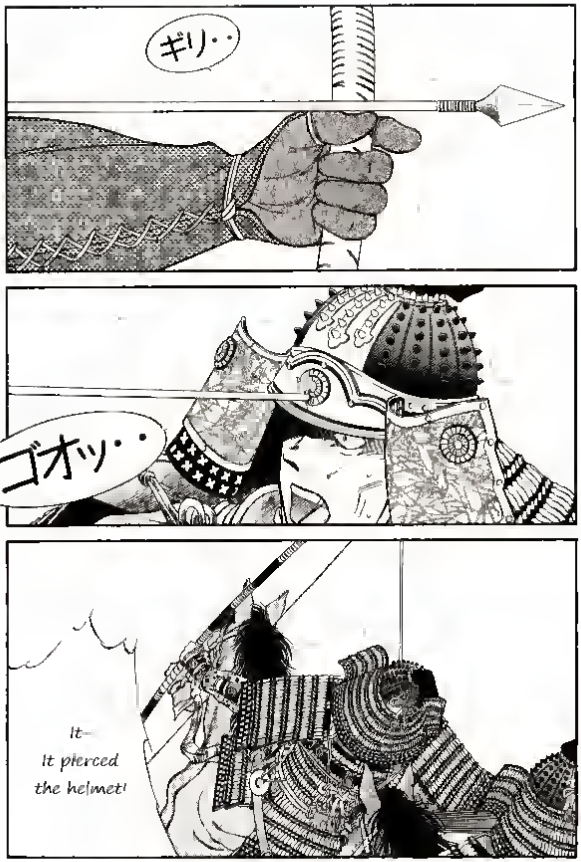

It's been nine years since I came down from Mt. Kurama and yet I haven't fought in any battle. Not once.
To destroy the Heike clan.

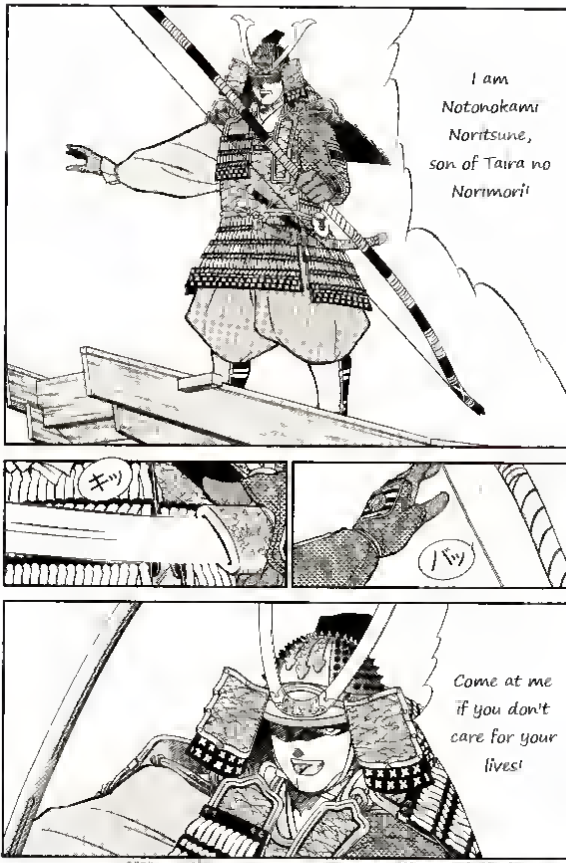
But I'm only sitting here, wasting time.
Elder Brother is also campaigning.

My Lord!


You just have to wait for the opportunity.
That time will definitely come.


And that time came.
Is this also a part of Yoritomo's luck?
He's a general who always wins his battle.
Kiso Yoshikawa hunted down the Heike
to the west and was defeated.

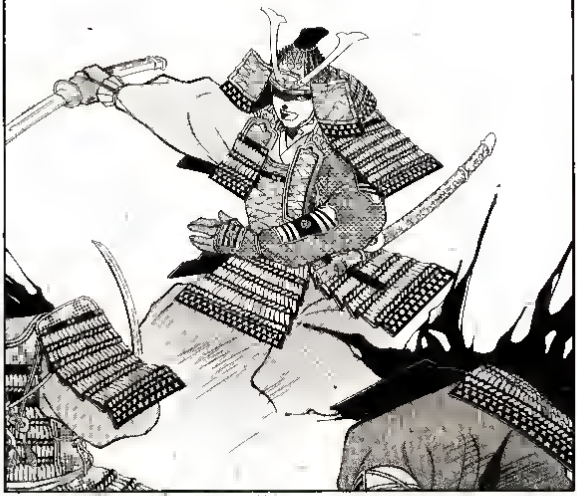

ギリ・・
ゴオッ・・
It—
It pierced
the helmet!



教経　-教盛の(おそらくは)次男。
青盛の甥にあたり、勇将として名高い。

教盛　-平　青盛の弟(三弟)。

Kase Infantries were defeated by
Taira no Shigehira and Michsmore's army
attacking from the sea.
They called themselves
Ojoucha's Selected Troop Tsuyoyumi.
Before Taira no Noritsune,
Kaso's armies were not able to do anything
besides to retreat.

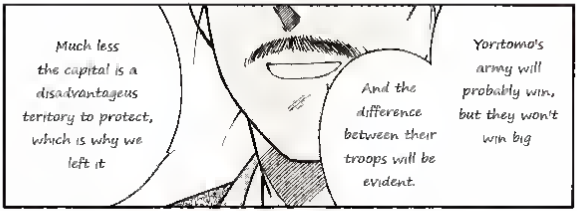


平重衡……清盛の四男　母は時子。
平通盛……教盛の嫡男　教経の兄。

宗盛　…清盛の次男 兄・重盛の死後(1179年42歳で 没) 平家の跡を継く …この時36歳。
知盛　…清盛の四男 惰弱な棟梁・宗盛を補佐する。この時31歳(年令はいずれもかぞえ歳)

Anyone would be happy hearing Yoshikawa's defeat, even in Kamokura
What?
But why?
Yoritomo?
It seems that he has a strong suspicion and lust for power
Yoritomo is indeed a strategist He's hung up with the fact that he's the son of Genji's leader
but Yoshinaka who is threatening his position as the leader of Genji
The one he currently hates more is not Heike
Oh!

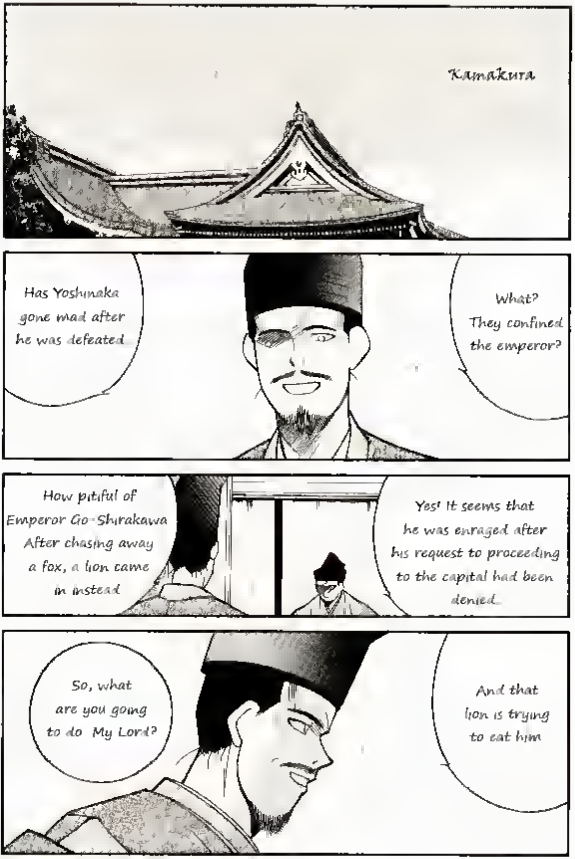
there will be a riot happening
And because they're defeated
In addition, he didn't get a part in capital campaign
I see
Even if they are from the same family, If Yoritomo take them down, it would be a just cause
Won't the capital just fall into Yoritomo's hands?
But then,
Yoritomo will send a huge troops and defeat Yoshinaka.
He will handle it the same way he did with Oshu's advancement behind him. In reality, he's too late from Yoshinaka.
He won't send a huge troops.

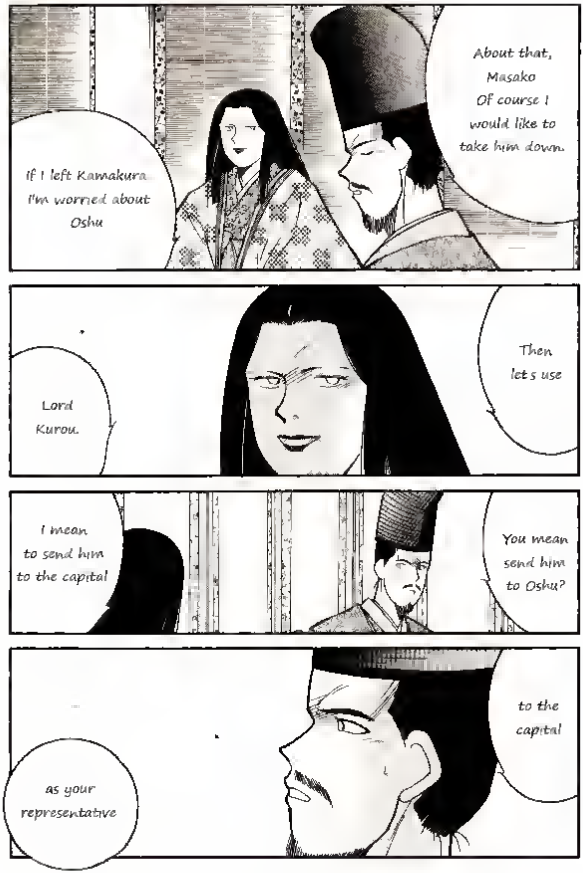

Much less the capital is a disadvantageus territory to protect, which is why we left it
And the difference between their troops will be evident.
Yoritomo's army will probably win, but they won't win big

*Even though the capital is located in a valley but its four gates on each sides is always open thus a great number of soldier s needed. In addition to big number of citizen, the army provisions is limited. That's why the town guards are not protecting the capital when conquered.

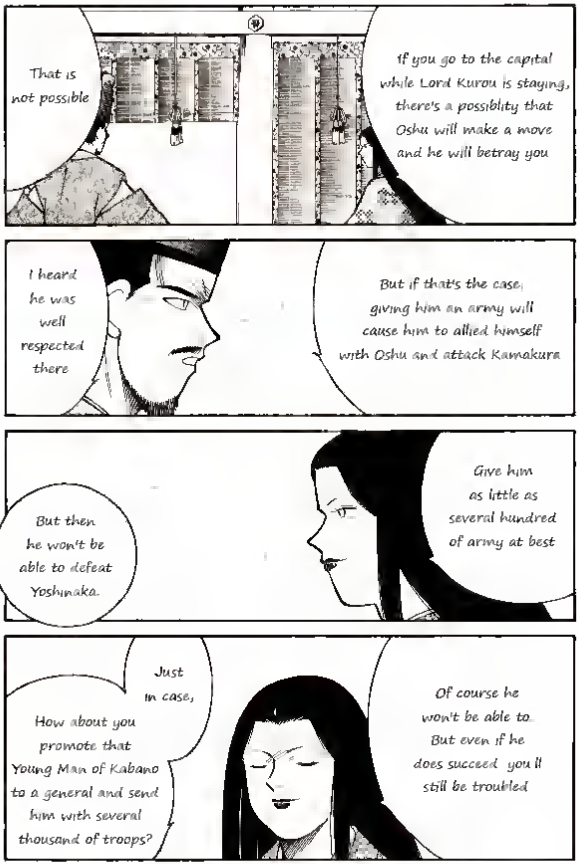
First, I'll proceed to Fukuhara
If we make a castle in a valley, even when we were attacked, we'd still win
As long as the Genji keep fighting each other,

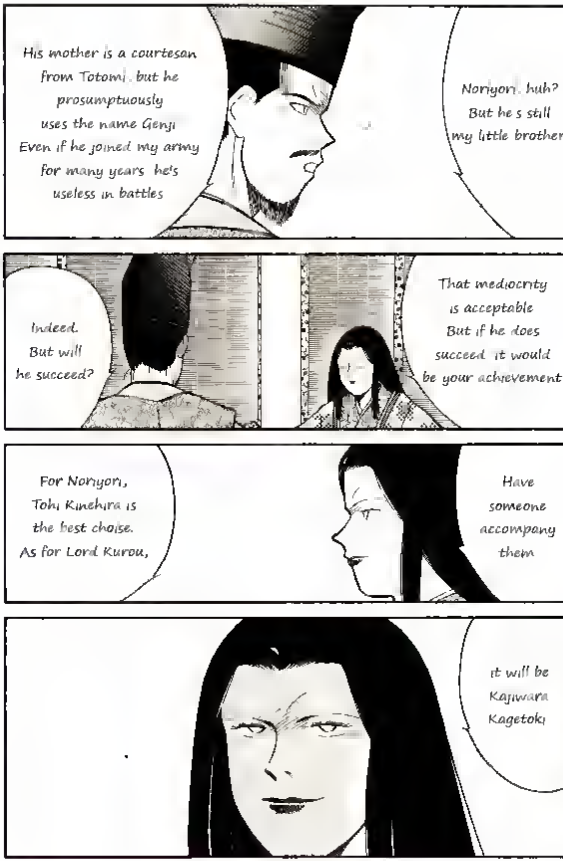
*Fukuhara: Currently Kobe.


Kamakura
Has Yoshinaka gone mad after he was defeated
What? They confined the emperor?
How pitiful of Emperor Go-Shirakawa After chasing away a fox, a lion came in instead
Yes! It seems that he was enraged after his request to proceeding to the capital had been denied.
So, what are you going to do My Lord?
And that lion is trying to eat him

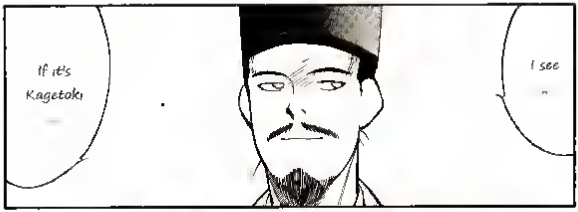

About that, Masako Of course I would like to take him down.
If I left Kamakura I'm worried about Oshu
Then let's use
Lord Kurou.
You mean send him to Oshu?
I mean to send him to the capital
to the capital
as your representative

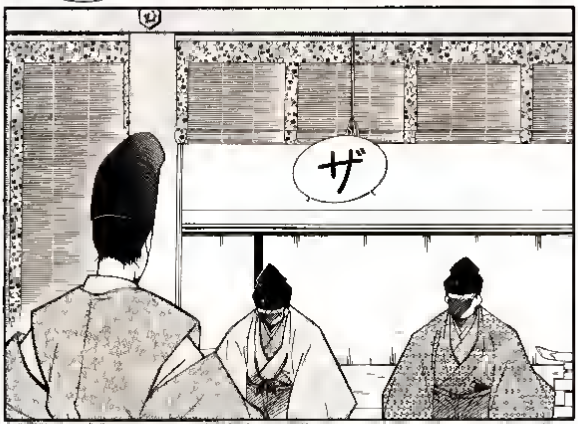
Even if you were invited to the capital by the emperor, if you send another person, it would seem ungrateful
But Lord Kurou
is your blood related little brother
I understand Summon Kurou here!
Yes!
ザ
My Lord,


That is not possible
If you go to the capital while Lord Kurou is staying, there's a possiblity that Oshu will make a move and he will betray you
I heard he was well respected there
But if that's the case, giving him an army will cause him to allied himself with Oshu and attack Kamakura
But then he won't be able to defeat Yoshinaka.
Give him as little as several hundred of army at best
How about you promote that Young Man of Kabano to a general and send him with several thousand of troops?
Just in case,
Of course he won't be able to. But even if he does succeed you'll still be troubled



源頼朝 遠江国（静岡県西部）蒲御厨で生まれたので蒲冠者と呼ばれた





土佐守(土肥-土匪とも)　視野異功 ― 石橋山の戦いでは平氏方の武将であったが 敗れて隠れて
頼朝挙兵時から従軍した坂東の豪族。いた頼朝をわざと逃がし その後頼朝に従軍したと伝えられる。

The riot caused by Kiso Yoshinaka has gone out of control We must defeat him
Request from Emperor Go-Shirakawa has come
Yoshinaka's riot is a disgrace for the name Genji.
It means we must not forget that he's also part of our family
Because we're from the same family, this attack must be done in secrecy
As my representative, go to the capital with five hundreds of men and take Yoshinaka down!
Kurou, I'm giving you an order

Yes!
What is it?
I humbly accept this order. But I have one desire
After I defeat Lord Yoshinaka,
please allow me to join the attack on Heike
Not only Yoshinaka, but he's going to defeat Heike with only five hundred men.
Fufu! What a confident man.

I was too worried about Oshu
He's just a fool who wanted to defeat the Heike...
I'll allow it!
Yes!
Then, Kage-toki!
Yes!
I, Kurou, will take this order with my life for you, Elder Brother
I'll leave him to you
I'll put you in Kurou's troops!
Yes, My Lord!

*H's rank is the same as General Staff to monitor the course of the war

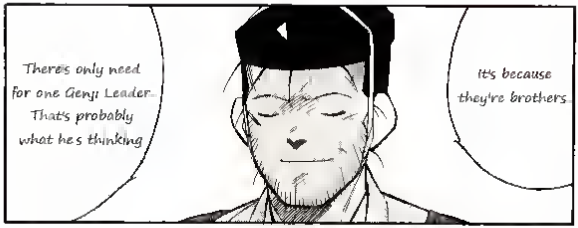
Second year of Juei (1183),
Winter,
Yoshitsune's name appeared for the first time in history.
He set for his first battle at the capital
with an army of five hundred men.

*When the troops see off, they're not seen wearing their armor and helmet (because the destination is far away).
Incidentaly, he's not wearing a headband (he wore it in Late Kamakura period after Northern and Southern Dynasties).

※陣をはる時 屋外であれば莚(ひらはり)と呼ぶ天幕を張って宿営した。
(場合によっては寺社などを接収する事もあったもよう)

We're just scouts to see the state of the capital
Don't get upset, Tsugunobu Tadanobu!
Now that you mention it didn't Lord Yoritomo never admit that Lord Noriyori as his brother due to him being born to a courtesan?
Then, can't they just leave it to Lord Noriyori?
Where's our Lord?
And for him to come here leading five thousand men...!
Perhaps he is taking a stroll to clear his mind.
He went outside with Benkei some time ago.

On the contrary I am not. He doesn't like to speak ill of other people
What? Are you going to advice him or something?
that means I'm speaking ill of them
if I answer your questions
Speaking ill?
This is just my speculation but I don't think Lord Kamakura want our Lord to succeed
Huh?
But why? Lord Yoritomo only has small number of blood related brothers
What?


There's only need for one Genji Leader. That's probably what he's thinking
It's because they're brothers

He's not! I know it's confusing, but there're people who're worried about that
What? He thinks that our Lord will betray him?

ニヤ

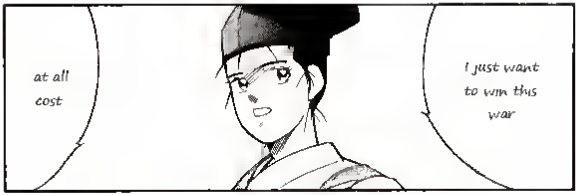
Lord Yoritomo has allied himself with the Hojo and our lord
I don't understand

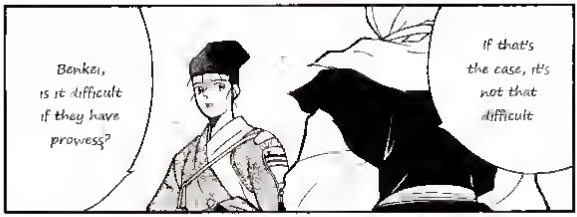
Huh? Lord Kagetoki,
We didn't hear about this
ザ
We're going to have war meeting Call Lord Kurou

代官――この場合は頼朝の代理人という事で、ある意味頼朝と同格のあつかいをうけるのが筋とも言える。

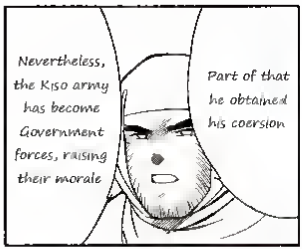
Really, what a bunch of ungrateful bandits
Nevermind! We'll proceed with the meeting without Lord Kurou
We might be a bunch of bandits,
Who's the one being ungrateful here?
Lord Kajiwara!
So we all should be careful, don't you think?
therefore we might not know what we're capable of

I have
My Lord, have you looked into Lord Kajiwara's eyes?
Just don't blindly follow your heart
Then I won't say anything else


I just want to win this war
at all cost


If that's the case, it's not that difficult
Benkei, is it difficult if they have prowess?

I suppose
If the informations are correct, Lord Yoshikawa has been given the title of Great Barbarian Conquerer General


Part of that he obtained his coersion
Nevertheless, the Kiso army has become Government forces, raising their morale

Hmm, so he's been called the Asahi General?

As we still don't know the condition of their army. There might be a total of 6000-7000 of Kiso army over there.
We're lucky to join Lord Noriyori's army
Even if Lord Tohi is also here, Lord Noriyori is said to be average in his first battle
The capital might be a disadvantageus location to protect, but Lord Yoshinaka is a skillful warrior
So let's not speak ill of Lord Kabano, okay?
I'm also average
I'm starving

No...
It wasn't
me,
Did you
say something?
It was him
Mister
Mutsu!

Will you give me a meal?
Sure!
Have you looked into Yoritomo's eyes?

I don't wish to see him as anything more than that
He's my Elder Brother
ポリ
Right, I forgot
a hardcore naive man
You're
So, where's the meal?
What?

Benkei, did you lose to this man
on an eating contest?

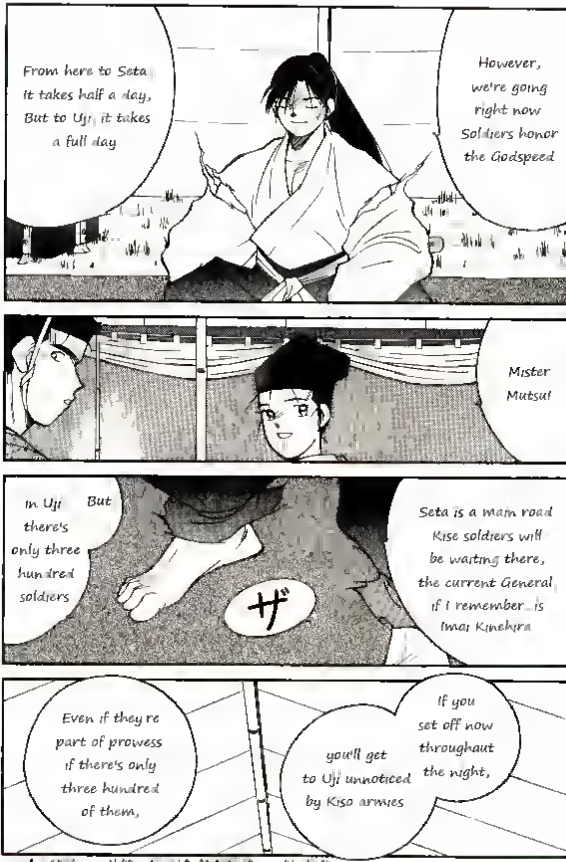
You're being rude, Lord Saburo!
Oh a power showdown It's true!
カタッ
Are you full?
No, my stomach usually needs eight portions.

Lord Kurou!
Ah, Lord Kajiwara!
We'll march to Seta tomorrow morning
It has been decided that Noriyori's five thousand infantry will be the main force while your five hundred infantry will be the support
How can we accept this decision when our Lord wasn't on the meeting?
I hope you'll do well

*Seta: area to enter the capital from Oumi. Currently eastern Otsu, Shiga Prefecture.

大手：城の正面（表門）を言い、この場合は主力軍搦手：城の裏門を言い、この場合は主力を助ける別動軍

Stop it Tsugunobu! I am the one who was absent
Brother!
Brother
Ugh!
That is all.
Yeah
One mistake and we'll lose
The strategy is too obvious.
and go to Uji
Let's leave Seta to the main force
Five hunder infantry is good enough



今井兼平 ―― 義仲の養育者・中原兼遠の四男。義仲にとって、単なる主従以上の関係であったという。

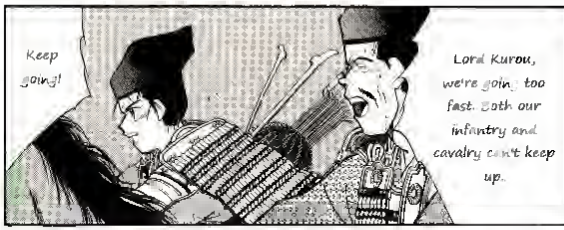
then Benkei, you can handle it
After that going to Seta will be much quicker. As for how you get your men there,
Once you enter the capital, Yoshikawa will be unprotected.
That will be your job.
Yes!
Okay!
I'm in your debt.
Get the horse! Tell the soldiers to prepare, Tadanobu!

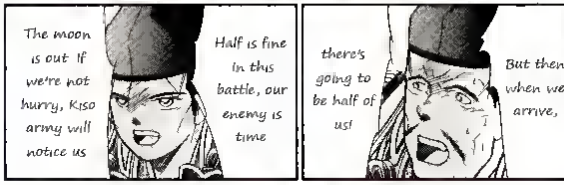
It was for the meal
Don't mention it
to die in a useless war
Also I just don't want Benkei
at the capital
I'll be waiting

What?!
Have you gone mad?
The council... no moreover, you'll clearly won't get to Uji in time from here You'll tire out your men!
I am the general of the support troops We're only five hundred of us
It won't be a nuisance for the main troops if we do this
But
I am Elder Brother's representative I have a stand in this war

Wha...!
If you're unpleased with this... you may join with the main troops.
I will tell Lord Kamakura about your selfishness. Is that fine with you?
I understand But our forces will be broken!
Go ahead!
We're leaving as soon as we are done preparing!
Hurry!

Hah!
Hah!
Uwah!




The moon is out. If we're not hurry, Kiso army will notice us
Half is fine in this battle, our enemy is time
there's going to be half of us!
But then when we arrive,

歩兵は騎馬武者の半分の速さで進む。江戸時代には徒士と書いた歩兵の事。

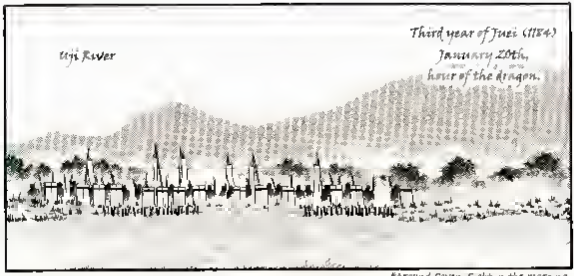
well get to Yoshimaka in the capital. Then Kiso armies in Seta will collapse
We have to do this. If we made it before the battle at Seta even begins.

※当時の馬はやや小型であり鎧兜を着用した武者はかなりの重量となるため一日に進める距離は短くなる。

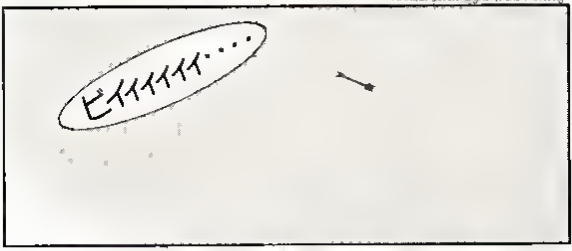
※兜は5kg位あり、その重さが苦痛となるため戦直前でないとかぶらなかった。
雑役は背負ったり、主将などは兜持役という兜持ちに持たせたという。

Nanairen: F*ck these footnotes! It basically says that Yoshitsune isn't wearing a helmet because it's too heavy for small horses and it will slow them down.

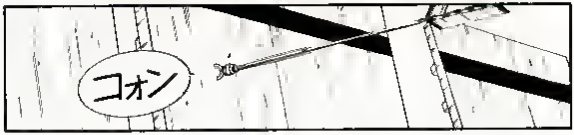
Let's
move on!

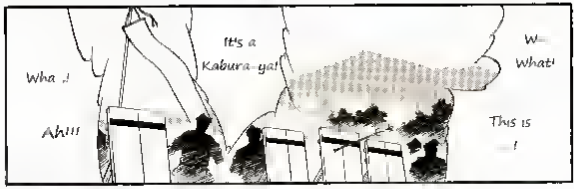


*Around Seven Eight in the morning



*Third year of Juei that year marked the uses of new calendar and new period. But the government was still using Juei year



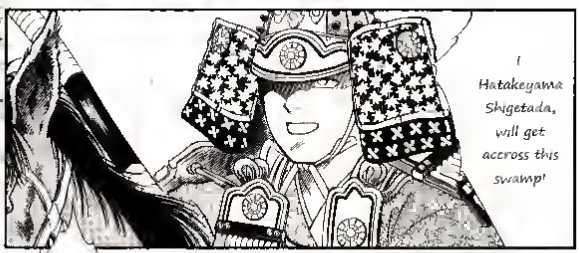


*Kabura-ya arrows whoosh whistled when shot and were used in ritual archery exchanges prior to formal medieval battles. (Nanaten thanks Wikipedia!)

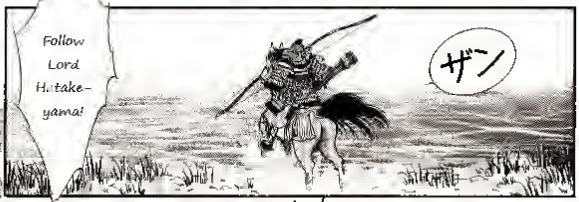
※当時、京都盆地の南口は「巨椋池」と呼ばれる広大な池（湿地）が存在し、その北へ宇治川が注ぎ込む手前にかかる宇治「橋」は、南東から京へ入る通であり、防衛拠点のひとつでもあった

Why did they put a small number of army here?
But why? I didn't hear about this!
That kid actually did it!
ハア
ハア

亀山上皇と"後醍醐天皇"の対立が激化する中、"楠木正成"と共に"鎌倉幕府"を倒した"播磨"の豪族"赤松則村"の子"赤松貞範"の元に"後醍醐天皇"の使者"名和長年"が訪れる。



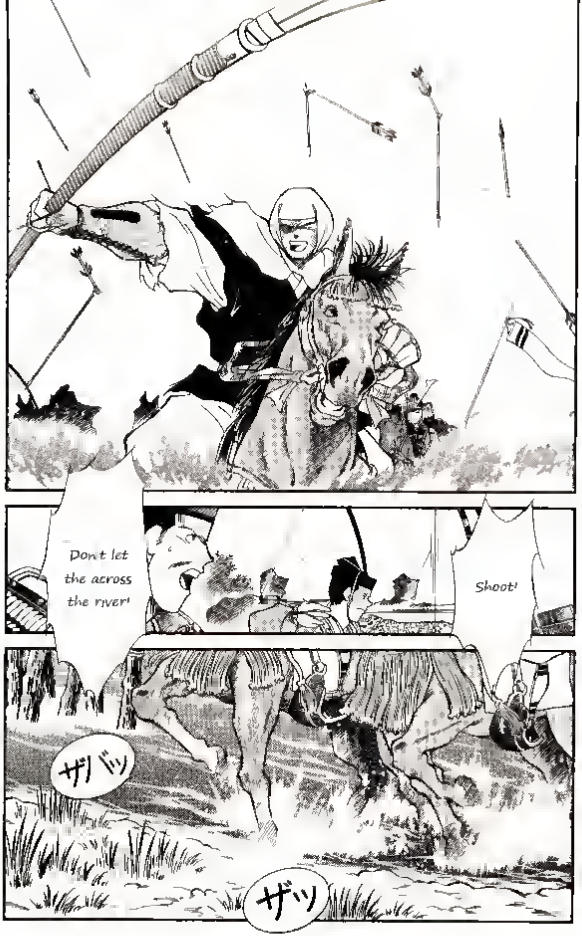
"後醍醐天皇"の"鷹"と伝わる勇将"この時"最初に川に入ろうとしたと伝えられる。

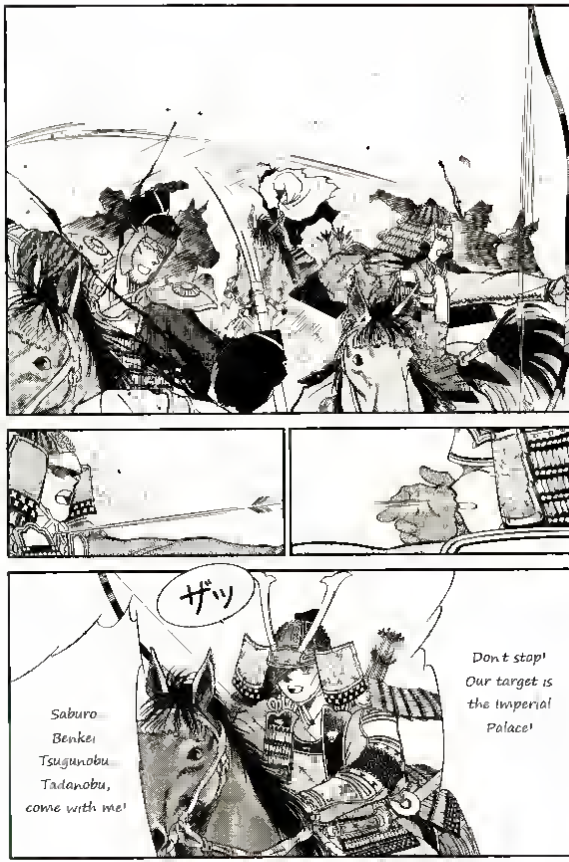


"梶原景季"　景時の子"宇治川"における佐々木"高綱"との先陣あらそいは有名（"高綱"が先陣をはたす）

瀬踏：この場合 川が馬で渡れるか試す事。
先陣：戦陣に一番乗りする事。

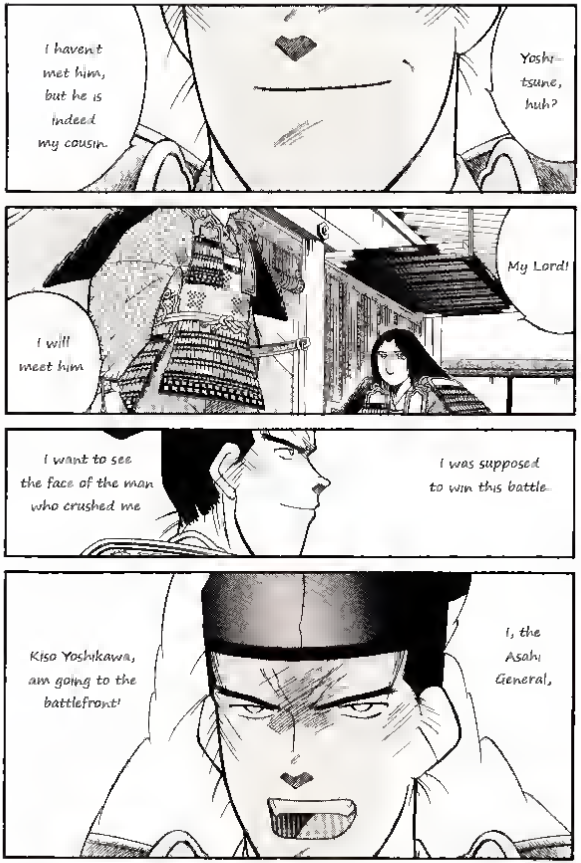
Tsugunobu, Tadanobu, don't fall behind!
You too Lord Saburo, don't get swept by the current!
Yeah!
Benkei!
My Lord, get behind me!
I will open the path for you!

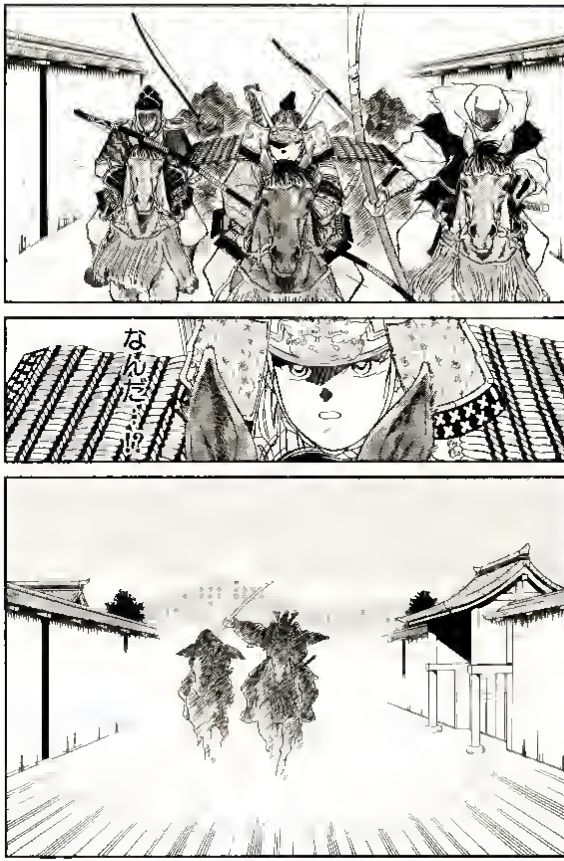

Don't let the across the river!
Shoot!
ザバッ
ザッ


ザッ
Saburo
Benkei
Tsugunobu
Tadanobu,
come with me!
Don't stop!
Our target is
the Imperial
Palace!

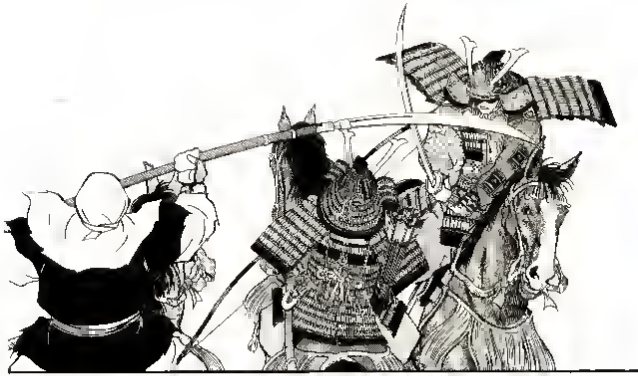
Are they really that powerful?
ハア ハア
What? Th-They are so powerful, Lord Kurou's retainers.
ザバ
トオ
I can't afford this!
ギリ
If it goes on,
I Kajiwara Heiza Kagetoki will be the first one to enter the capital!
Kagesue, follow me!
Our target is Yoshinaka!
Yes, Father!

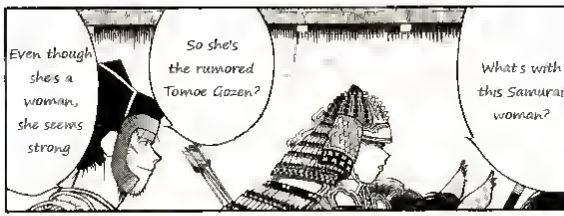
Our camp in Uji is defeated, you say?
All of a sudden, they appeared in Uji and is entering the capital
Yes! I think they're the support troops.
What's the name of the General?
They're most likely aiming for the palace
If I remember, it's Kurou Yoshitsune.
Yes!?

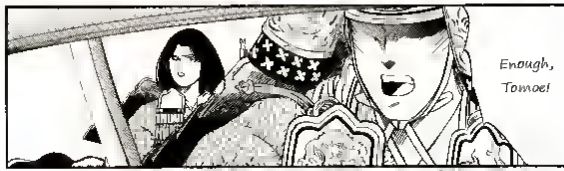

I haven't met him, but he is indeed my cousin.
Yoshitsune, huh?
My Lord!
I will meet him.
I want to see the face of the man who crushed me
I was supposed to win this battle.
Kiso Yoshikawa, am going to the battlefront!
I, the Asahi General,


なんだ…!?

I, Kiso Yoshikawa
am challenging Kurou Yoshitsune to a one-on-one duel!
ギィイン
What?



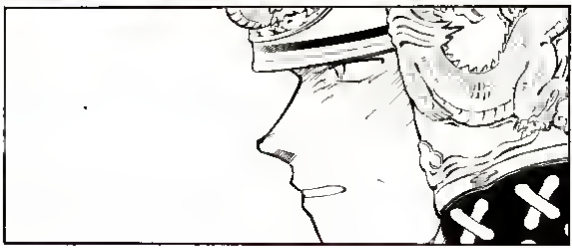


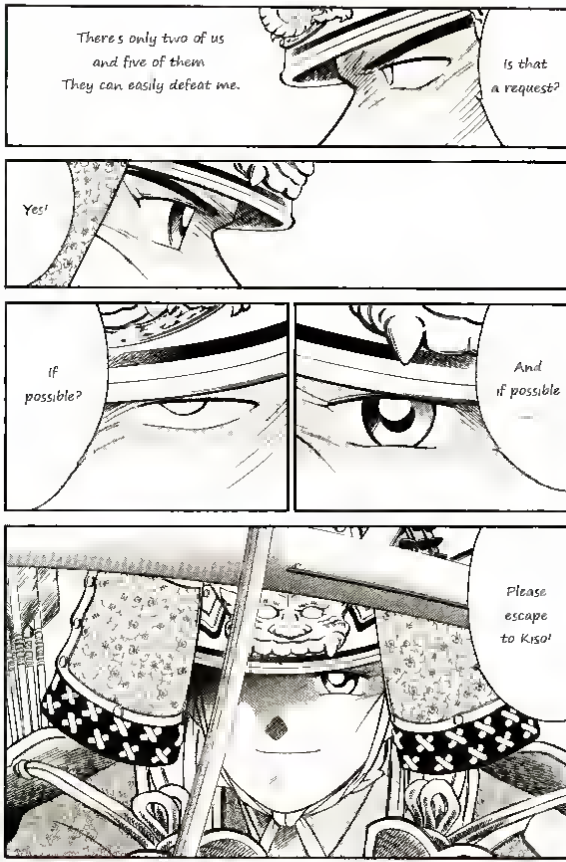


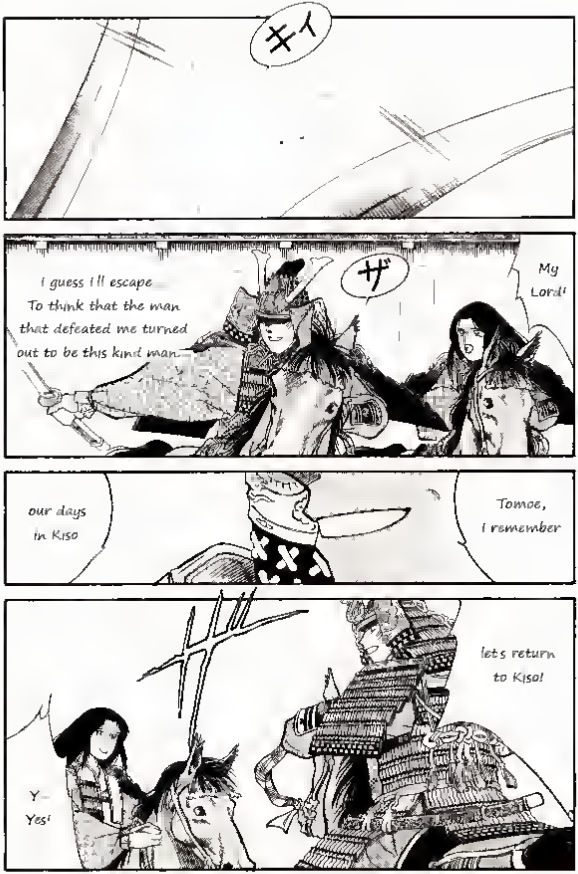
巴御前……義仲の愛妾として義仲に随従した女武者と伝えられるが、伝説的要素も強く、異伝も多い。

Why aren't you dodging?
He didn't dodge my sword!
I have obtained vassals more excellent than anyone.
I don't have any power, but in exchange
You're saying that you believed your vassal would stop my sword without doubt?
What?
Yes!
Will you surrender to me?
A request?
Lord Yoshimaka, I have a request

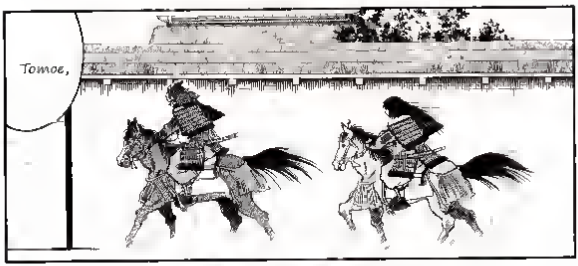
キィ・・




There's only two of us
and five of them
They can easily defeat me.
Is that
a request?
Yes!
If
possible?
And
if possible
Please
escape
to Kiso!


キィ
I guess I'll escape...
To think that the man that defeated me turned out to be this kind man...
ザ
My Lord!
our days in Kiso
Tomoe, I remember
Y... Yes!
let's return to Kiso!

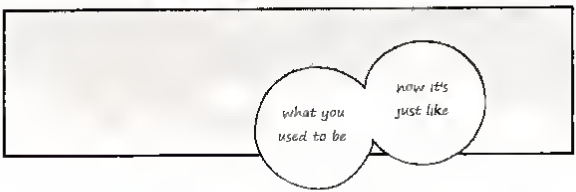
I won't say thanks
But I will tell you this,
Kurou!
both Kamakura and the Emperor!
Beware of

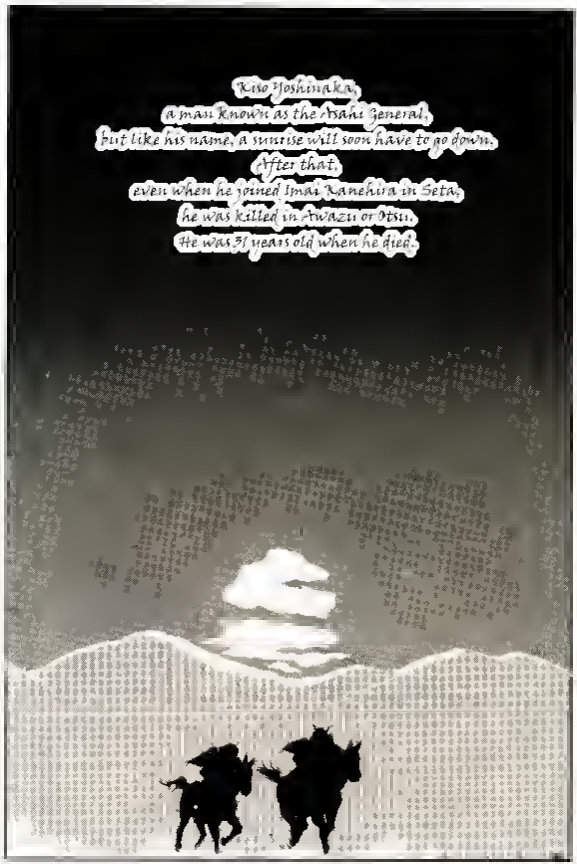

Tomoe,

It truly is terrifying
his eyes were terrifying

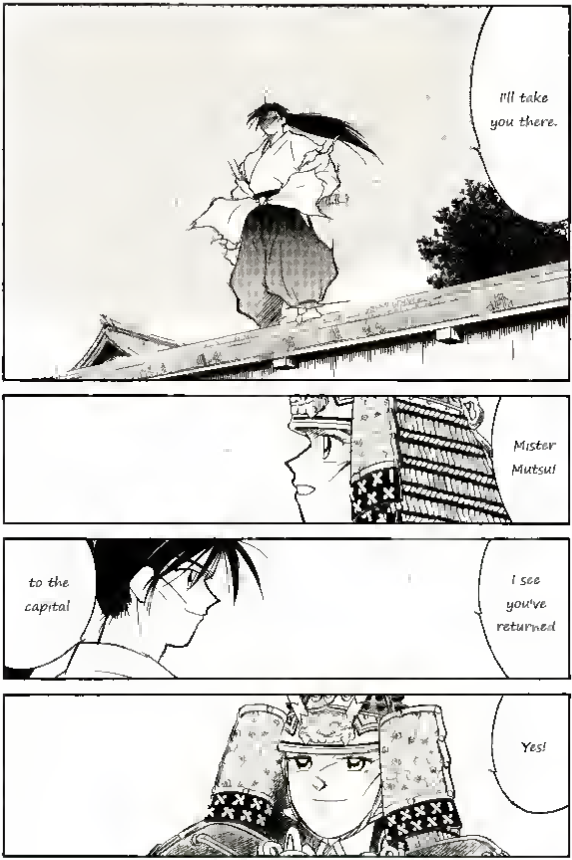
Has it become cloudy since I came to the capital?
How about my eyes?

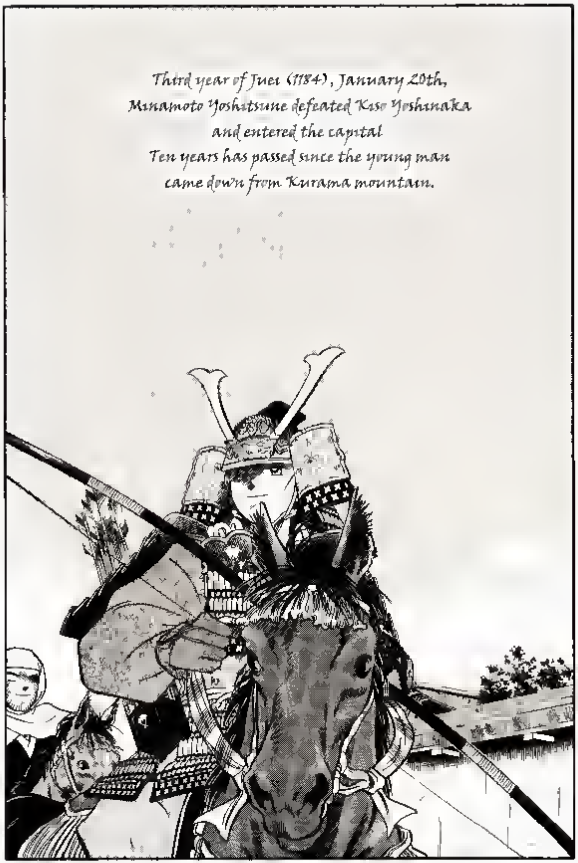
But...
Yes!


what you used to be
now it's just like


Kiso Yoshinaka,
a man known as the Asahi General,
but like his name, a sunrise will soon have to go down.
After that,
even when he joined Imai Kanehira in Seta,
he was killed in Awazu or Otsu.
He was 31 years old when he died.

My Lord, is this okay? It took us a while to find him.
I couldn't kill him no matter what
Sorry!
Besides, I think our biggest success in this battle
is to resque Emperor Go Shirakawa


I'll take you there.
Mister Mutsu!
to the capital
I see you've returned
Yes!


Third year of Juei (1184), January 20th,
Minamoto Yoshitsune defeated Kiso Yoshinaka
and entered the capital
Ten years has passed since the young man
came down from Kurama mountain.

「初陣（ういじん）」完（かん）

MUTSU ENMEI-RYU GAIDEN: SHURA NO TOKI
VOLUME 8 CHAPTER 2
TRANSLATION BY: NANATEN
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